AIM

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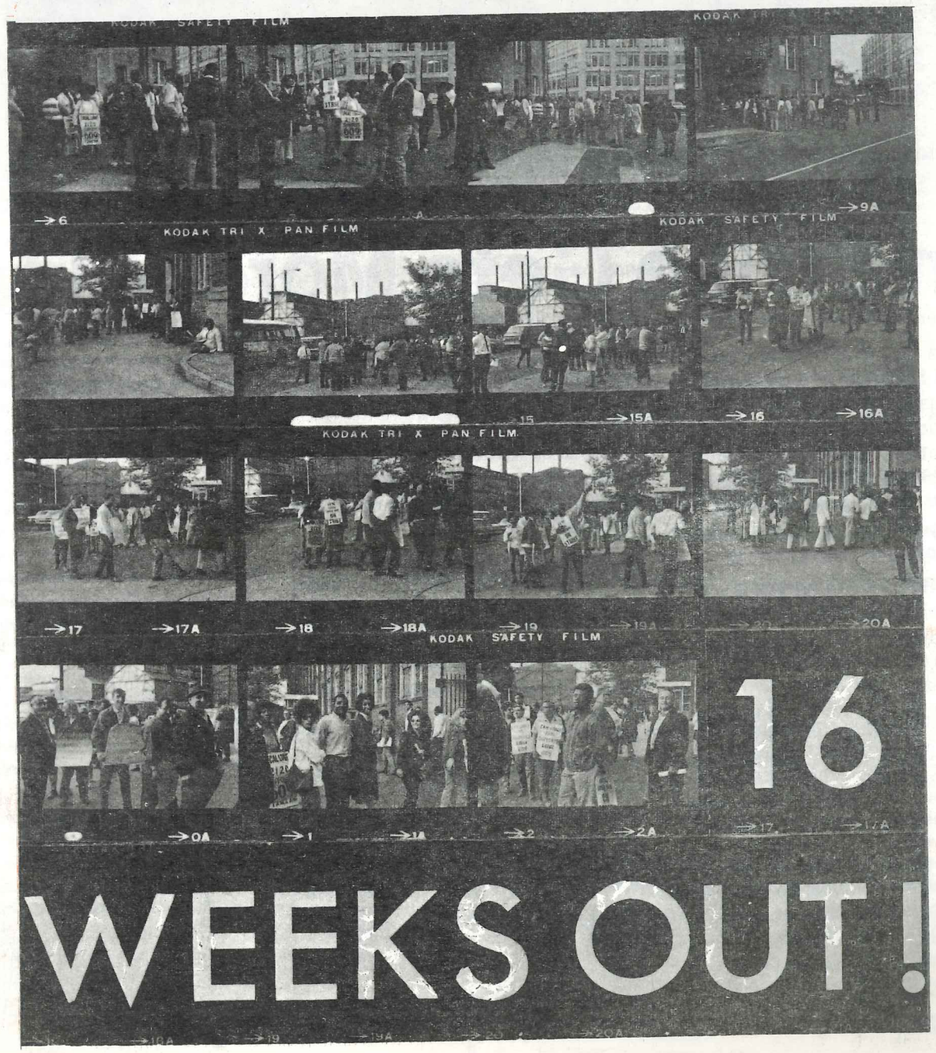
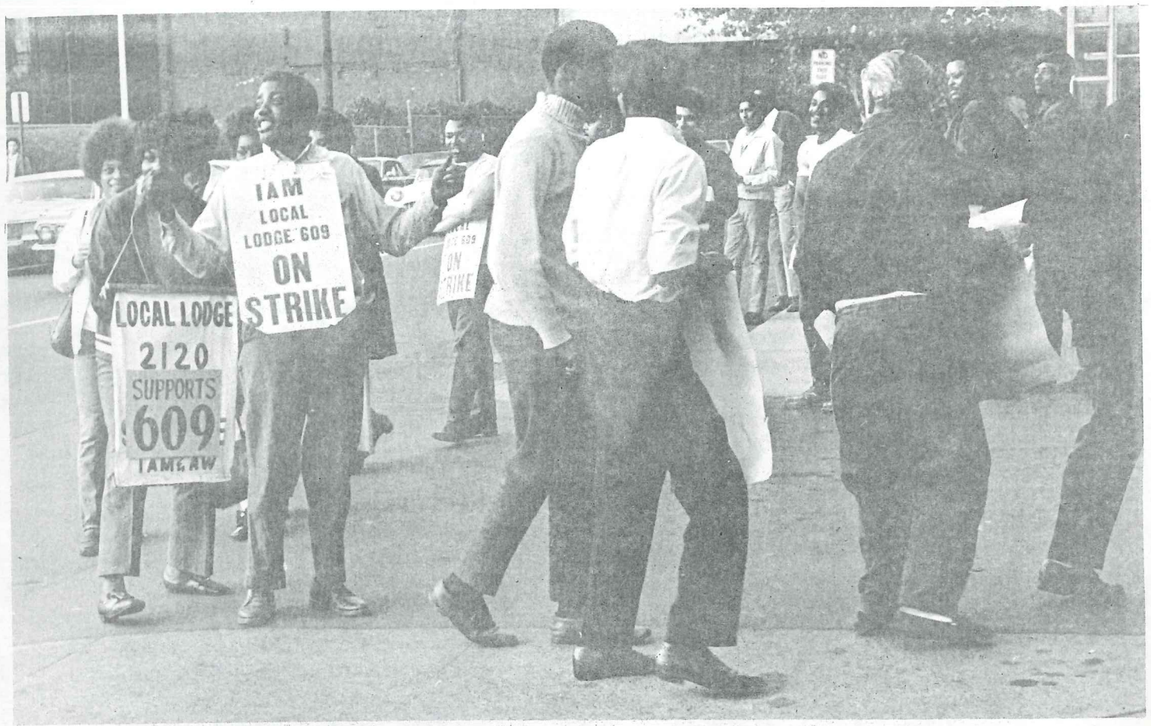
OLIN WORKERS GAIN SUPPORT





Olin Strike Gets More Militant

For the first time since the beginning of IAM 609's 15 week old strike, large numbers of people have participated in mass picketing and militant action. On Monday, October 20, representatives of six New Haven IAM locals joined the Olin pickets from 4-6 p.m. Between 50 and 75 people, including distributors of the OLIN STRIKE NEWS, marched in a circle at one gate and prevented vehicles from crossing the line.

The picketing was proceeding peacefully, but a company-paid New Haven policeman ($6.25 an hour) hassled the pickets to "move on". When a picket spoke up to say they were moving, he and several others were arrested and hauled off to jail. The pickets were already angry at the cops and office workers who were coming out of the plant, and the arrests were a spark to more militant action.

Pickets broke from one gate to set up a line at another gate where more cars were leaving the plant. Along the way, rocks and bottles were thrown breaking windows in the plant on Winchester Ave.

At first, the police were greatly outnumbered by workers and could not contain or arrest them. But police reinforcements were brought in and the disturbances stopped shortly after dark.

Word was spread smong the more militant workers to go back Tuesday evening to keep up the pressure on Olin. Extra pickets came at 6 a.m. because of reports that scabs from Manpower were working inside. Four suspects had nearly been beaten by workers on leaving the plant Monday night.

Late Tuesday afternoon, 24 Olin workers were picketing the main gate and verbally harrassing the police and office staff. AIM people and a group of students from Wesleyan University who had collected money for the strike attempted to join the picket line. The police threatened to arrest anyone who did, saying that the Union president asked him to keep outsiders off the line, and that it was illegal for them to join the pickets. Louis Romano, president of IAM local 609, who was on the scene, denied this and said he had no say over who wanted to join the line.

At this point, a union picket was suddenly arrested for no apparent reason except his shouting at the office scabs. Police then forced the pickets back from the driveway and held up traffic to let cars out. A dozen or so black workers stood across the street with raised fists and shouted support to the pickets, but police soon forced them to disperse, along with AIM and the Wesleyan group.

Monday and Tuesday evenings were the first times that large numbers of people came to the line when it was not their assigned picketing time. They were angry at the company for delaying the settlement and very angry at the cops for roughing them up and interfering with their picketing. They were militant in talk and action, and most said that the company needed to be shaken up a little bit to let them know that the strikers meant business.

This militancy may give added impetus to plans for a mass rally of strike support which other unions and community groups as well as strikers on the line have been calling for. A show of militant solidarity among New Haven workers would be a boost to the union and would show strength among its own workers, who now seem ready to do more than the union has asked of them before.

Community Support

More people than just the strikers have become angry about the length of this strike. Community groups around the city have expressed support of the strikers and planned activities to help.

At its regular monthly meeting on October 9, the Fair Haven Betterment Association took up the question of the Olin strike. Many people in the FHBA have suffered because the company refuses to negotiate a speedy end to the strike, not to mention cutting off medical benefits and holding back the vacation pay due under the last contract. The Betterment Association decided to issue a press release supporting the strikers and to urge other community groups to do the same.

The FHBA is holding a dinner for the strikers on October 28 at the Methodist Church on East Pearl Street. The FHBA hopes that the dinner will give Fair Haven strikers and their families a chance to meet each other and discuss common problems. Union officials will attend and the film "The Inheritance" will be shown.

Besides the dinner, which will be announced in a letter from the union to Fair Haven strikers, the FHBA may collect canned goods, assist in a mass rally with community support, and set up a grievance committee to handle cases when local merchants refuse to extend credit to strikers.

AIM and the union have contacted other community groups, and the idea of community support is spreading. The West Hills Community Council has set up a committee for strike support, and the Dixwell Ministerial Alliance is looking into ways it can help. Both groups have met with the union, and some other community groups are considering support as well.

Community support can help in the most important fight at the negotiating table by showing that the strikers do not stand alone. Their neighbors are prepared to help them win a reasonable contract. It is obvious that Olin has no interest in the welfare of the strikers or the New Haven community. But the community has a great interest in its people who work at Olin. The Fair Haven Betterment Association was the first of many groups besides AIM to urge the communities to take an active role in the strike and draw together to cooperate with and support its striking people.

AS AIM SEES IT

Some politicians have been asking other politicians to step in and help settle the strike:
Parker asked Mayor Lee
Guida asked Governor Dempsey
DiRienzo asked President Nixon
No politician has come out and supported the worker's demands for security, better working conditions, and higher pay. Instead, the politicians want to 'mediate' the strike, to 'bring the two sides together.' Workers can expect little help from people who prefer to sit on the fence.

AIM thinks that the demands of the Olin workers are reasonable and that they should win the strike. Whether they win depends on how strongly and militantly they stick together. And it depends on how much support they get from the other working people of New Haven.

AIM thinks it is unjust to allow a 'few rich Olin executives to hurt thousands of workers and their families. If companies like Olin can't provide decent jobs at decent pay, maybe the best solution to work for would be to have the workers own and run the factories. 3000 jobs are more important than Olin's profits. Lay the bosses off, it makes more sense.

The company has made no concessions on the issues the union considers most important:
—protecting the wages and working conditions negotiated for the life of the contract
—improving pension benefits
—phasing out the incentive system so no workers lost money
—providing medical insurance which pays the full cost of health care.

Emphasizing the questions around incentive obscures the union's major demand—that it have the power to protect its members. The union wants the right to challenge the company's arbitrary power to set and change job classifications and standards of production to be written into the contract. Unless the union wins this demand it will not be able to prevent speed-ups or head off attempts to reduce wages.

The press, radio and TV haven't given people a straight story about the strike. They usually push the bosses' line. Their stories say that money is the strikers' only concern and that phasing out the incentive system is the only issue. In fact, the union doesn't object to ending the incentive system, but it won't accept Olin's wage-chopping way of doing it. The Olin plan would cause a loss of wages of up to $1000 per year for more than a third of its workers.

As the struggle at Olin gets more bitter and the workers get more militant, the need for solidarity with the strikers becomes greater. Demonstrations of solidarity by workers at other factories and residents all over New Haven will help to defeat Olin and assert the power of the people against the power of the corporations.

—Olin Strike News

Olin Strikers Speak Out

Asks Citywide Support

To the people of the city of New Haven and surrounding areas: Recently we watched the New Haven Police Department, which was on strike for better working conditions and higher salaries. The employees of Olin and members of other unions supported them. Now in the city of New Haven another union, Lodge 609, is bargaining for a better contract and we do not get the support from the New Haven Police Department members that we gave them. Example: we were manning the gate at Olin when a disturbance came about. Union members were arrested. But what do you think happened to the company officials who were also involved and should have been arrested as well. I believe the whole incident could have been avoided if the people were able to conduct the strike in the manner that it should be done and if the people from the outside of the union and the police would honor our picket lines as theirs were.

This strike would end very shortly, it would not have been a continuous thing and prolonged like it has been for the last 13 weeks in order to get an honorable settlement so that the people of 609 can return to work. We must have the support of the people of New Haven in full, as they gave their support to the New Haven policemen's union. The police are also working men who should understand the need for support of the members of Lodge 609 who want to return to work. We ask that they give us all of their support and that city officials step in to help settle this quickly. People must remember that this was only brought about for the police because of all the support they received from all the working people of the city of New Haven and surrounding areas and towns.

One Big Union

Dear Members: When are the factory workers of New Haven going to wake up to the fact that you're under the thumb of the owners. I always told my husband that it is about time you had one big union here. The factory workers have no one to turn to. They're treated like dirt all the way. The money is terrible, and the Chamber of Commerce makes sure no big money factory comes in. Have one big union. Might is Right!

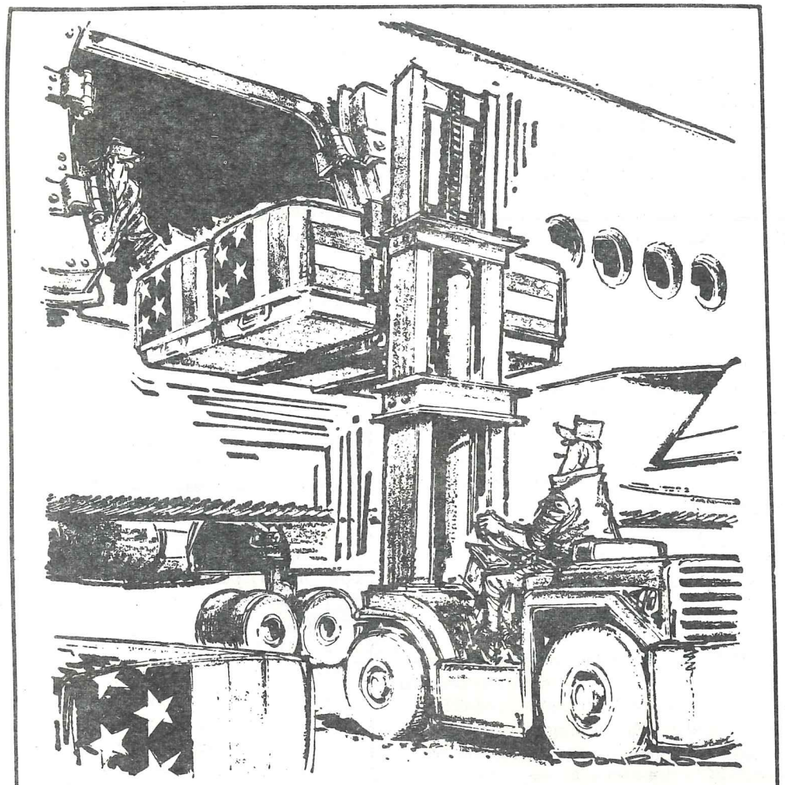
Factory Worker's Wife

THE SAME OLD STORY:

WHAT DID YOU TELL THAT MAN JUST NOW?
I TOLD HIM TO WORK FASTER!
HOW MUCH DO YOU PAY HIM?
FIFTEEN DOLLARS A DAY!
WHERE DO YOU GET THE MONEY TO PAY HIM?
I SELL PRODUCTS!
WHO MAKES THE PRODUCTS?
HE DOES!
HOW MANY PRODUCTS DOES HE MAKE IN ONE DAY?
FIFTY DOLLARS WORTH...
THEN INSTEAD OF YOU PAYING HIM, HE PAYS YOU THIRTY FIVE DOLLARS A DAY TO TELL HIM TO WORK FASTER!
HUH?
WELL... I OWN THE MACHINES!
HOW DID YOU GET THE MACHINES?
I SOLD PRODUCTS AND BOUGHT THEM!
AND WHO MADE THOSE PRODUCTS?
SHUT UP... HE MIGHT HEAR YOU!

after the moratorium:

ON TO WASHINGTON !



U.S. troops continue to be withdrawn from South Vietnam.

by Steve Ellner

The widespread involvement in the October 15 Moratorium demonstrated a new stage in the public's stand on the war. Before this demonstration, the public was alienated from the government's Vietnam policy, but was, nevertheless, uninvolved in any organized opposition. The Moratorium, however, changed this situation. Now there exists a large segment of the population, and an especially high proportion of youth, who are committed to taking action against the Vietnam War. This is an important step.

The Committee for the Fall Offensive Against the War in Vietnam supported the October 15 Moratorium and sent speakers to teach-ins at various colleges. Many of the teach-ins represented the colleges' first major event in opposition to the war.

At New Haven College, 200 students heard a variety of speakers ranging from SDS members to the head of the New Haven College Department of Business Administration.

Quinnipiac College had its own Moratorium day program, organized by the Independent Action Group, a new campus organization that includes students, faculty and employees. The day was devoted to ending the war through all day discussion, movies, slides and a rally. The program was much more radical in expression compared to the establishment-oriented rally on the New Haven Green. There were discussions on the draft, women and the war, the military-industrial complex, the history of US involvement in Vietnam, a comparison of the American and Vietnamese revolutions and the psychology of American soldiers who fight in the war. Students, faculty and employees spoke at the noon rally. The College president talked about national priorities and the lack of funds for solving domestic problems. John Hogan, one of the Catonsville Nine and a former Maryknoll Brother who worked in Guatemala, spoke about the war and American imperialism. This was illustrated again later in the rally with a guerrilla theater skit that showed how the US would send troops to Latin America should the Vietnam war end—it's profitable for the generals and the corporations.

About 400 people from the college, including several construction workers who were working on campus buildings, participated in all parts of the day's program. Many students, however, went to the New Haven Green to participate in the area's largest gathering. Afterwards, many were surprised to learn how impressive and well attended the Quinnipiac program really was. Quinnipiac people are really committed to ending the war and are organizing for the November 15 march on Washington.

One of the most important Moratorium events occured at Bridgeport, where 400 people marched from the University of Bridgeport to City Hall. The event was sponsored by Bridgeport AIM. It attracted mostly high school students involved in anti-war activities for the first time. The mood of the crowd was one of impatience with the war. Everyone was enthusiastic about a Draft Action Group-Resistance member's report of his experience in Cuba and with the NLF. There was interest in the demonstration from the Spanish speaking community, although there were few Puerto Ricans at the march itself.

It is the objective of the Committee for the Fall Offensive to End the War in Vietnam to build on the foundations of this first involvement.

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Why is the United States in Vietnam? Why is it necessary to speak out against

this atrocity?

"Our" government speaks of bringing freedom to Vietnam. By freedom, the government means the freedom of large U.S. corporations to buy, sell and invest at huge profits in other countries like Vietnam, regardless of whether the people there need or want to make profits for U.S. corporations.

That's free enterprise. That's the kind of society where large corporations can decide to build soda pop or rifle factories abroad, even though housing, schools and hospitals are needed both there and here. That's a society where corporations, by controlling the wealth, also control the power of the government.

In the U.S. free enterprise system, those corporations want the freedom to buy, sell and invest as they see fit in Vietnam, in Asia, throughout the world. The ways they get and keep that freedom is called imperialism. When necessary, these corporations will use their wealth and power to wage war on anyone threatening their freedom and wealth.

So they and their governments fight the Vietnamese people who want to control their own wealth and run their own country. So they fight black Americans who threaten corporate wealth by demanding justice and equality. They do it by paying blacks and women less pay for equal work and so setting man against woman as they set black worker against white.

Our Fall Offensive is really part of a larger and longer campaign. Our real job is to face the fact that U.S. policy in Vietnam was no mistake. It has always made sense to the large corporations running this country. So long as *they* run it, *we* will continue to pay in higher prices and taxes and with our lives for the continuation of the atrocities.

IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII

On November 15, a million people will go to Washington to demonstrate physically that "business as usual" is no longer possible in this country so long as the war continues. Our goal is to transport several thousand people from the New Haven area to participate in the Washington activities Saturday. The November 15 march is being sponsored by the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, a broad-based coalition of anti-war groups. The national steering committee includes Rev. William Sloane Coffin, David Dellinger, Mrs. Martin Luther King, and Dr. Benjamin Spock. A similar demonstration will take place on the same day in San Francisco. Locally, the project has attracted a number of groups, with a wide range of political opinion, who have joined together on the basis of two clear demands:

1. *Immediate withdrawal* of *all* American troops.
2. Withdrawal of support from the Saigon government.

The Fall Offensive Committee, which was established last month by AIM, Draft Action Group-Resistance, New Haven Students for a Democratic Society and Clergy and Laymen Concerned About the War in Vietnam, now consists of 14 groups. The coalition is presently coordinating distribution of information about the opposition to the war. Over 100 people have volunteered to work on the campaign, and an effort will be made to reach as many people in the city as possible.

The committee has worked with students of various colleges to set up teach-ins at each school.

The November 15 march is only one part of the Fall Offensive. We supported the Oct. 12 Fort Dix demonstration, which attracted over 5000 people with a demand of freeing the Fort Dix 38 and ending the stockade system. After November 15, we will continue to work to voice New Haven's angry opposition to this destructive war.

See page 19 for ticket information for buses to Washington march.

HARD FACTS ON THE WAR

Duration: Longest war U.S. ever engaged in.

Origin: After World War II, the French tried to restore colonial rule in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, which had been occupied by Japan since 1940. But the people wanted independence and resisted. Ho Chi Minh's League for the Independence of Vietnam was the strongest of the resisting elements. Ho declared Vietnam's Independence Day September 2, 1945. The French acknowledged the Democratic Republic of Vietnam the following year. Treachery by the French led to the French-Vietminh War which began in December, 1946. By 1949 the French had been thoroughly beaten. Part of French strategy had been to set up a puppet landowner-oriented government in Saigon.

U.S. Involvement: In order to secure French support for NATO (first granted then later repudiated by France), Truman agreed to provide the French with $2 billion worth of U.S. weapons to help subdue Vietnam. A U.S. military mission was sent to give instruction in the use of U.S. weapons, and in 1950, an assistance pact was signed with the puppet government in Saigon.

One Vietnam "Temporarily" Becomes Two: After the French defeat, a nine-nation cease-fire conference at Geneva in 1954 voted a temporary partition at the 17th parallel pending a national vote in 1956 of Vietnam citizens on their country's reunification . The U.S. and the Saigon puppet refused to sign the agreement, and in 1956 infuriated Vietnamese patriots by refusing to allow the scheduled elections. President Eisenhower acknowledged in his memoirs that Ho Chi Minh would have won 80% of the vote if free elections had taken place.

Escalation: Despite the withdrawal of France, the advice of deGaulle, world opinion, the Geneva Pact signatories, substantial public opinion in the U.S. and half the U.S. Senate, the U.S. continued to prevent free elections in Vietnam, to back the hand of the great landowners' corrupt government, and to increase its efforts to destroy the native Vietnamese national independence movement. Largely to this end, Pentagon usurpation of U.S. taxpayers' dollars rose from 45 billion in 1959 to 80 billion (half of all government spending) in 1968.

U.S. Casualties: 30 killed by the end of 1962. By October, 1969: 44, 798 killed, 253, 374 wounded.

Distortion of News: In 1962, congressmen accused Kennedy of being "less than candid" in reporting U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Washington correspondents pointed out a consistent "credibility gap" in the government's version of Vietnam events throughout the Johnson administration. The Nixon administration is similarly charged, most recently with the fact that after an announced "withdrawal of 25,000 troops" there were 6000, not 25,000 fewer U.S. soldiers in Vietnam than before the withdrawal. Nixon was reminded that he promised during his campaign to end the Vietnam War and that his election was a mandate to do so. ("N.Y. Times", Sept. 30, 1969)

Source: "World Almanac"

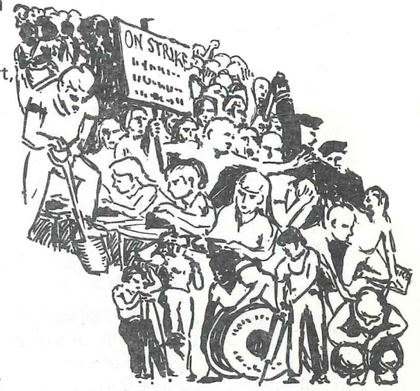
Money Talks

THE RICH GET RICHER

THE POOR PAY STATE TAXES

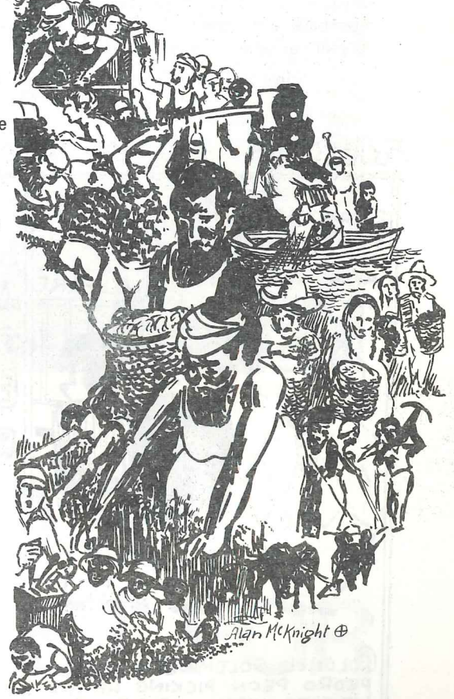
by John Mendeloff

It took a special session of the state legislature to do it, but Connecticut finally got a tax program for 1969-70. Why was it so difficult for the legislature to agree upon taxes, and why did the final program end up the way it did?



The answer to the first question, in part, is that every major political figure tried to make as much of a name for himself as he could. Let's take a quick look at what happened in the legislature.

- Dempsey introduced his budget, including a $1.7 billion General Fund. To pay for it, he wanted to rely chiefly on the sales tax. He wanted to raise it from 3½% to 5% (for $170 million extra in taxes). He also wanted to broaden its coverage for $350 million extra. A total of $920 million or half of all General Fund money would come from the sales tax.
- Businessmen liked Dempsey's plan, but plenty of screams went up all over at the size of the new tax hikes. A small group of liberal Democrats proposed an income tax instead of a rise in the sales tax. Dempsey opposed this move, but did propose a payroll tax on employers, a measure favored by labor. Heavy business lobbying killed that idea, but then the income tax got new support from House Democrats, led by majority leader William Ratchford.
- At the compromise meeting between Ratchford and Edward Marcus, majority leader of the Senate, a new plan emerged. The sales tax would rise to 6% instead of 5%. The corporate income tax would go from 5 ¼% to 8%, instead of 6% as Dempsey had proposed. The cigarette tax would go from 8¢ a pack to 14 ½¢ a pack instead of 10¢ a pack.
- Dempsey vetoed the plan because he was unwilling to enact the highest state sales tax in the nation. The problem of raising enough revenue was serious as it was. Most of the exemptions Dempsey wanted to knock out of the sales tax had been restored. Business interests had killed the tax on capital gains and cut the tax on insurance companies in half. A special session of the legislature had to be called.
- The entire leadership of the Democratic Party — Dempsey, Marcus, Ratchford and party chairman John



Bailey —worked out a new plan. The new sales tax would be 5%, Dempsey's original figure, but it would keep most of the exemptions. The other taxes would stay where the last compromise had left them. A few budget cuts were made in education and welfare.

Marcus, however, aware that Dempsey and Ratchford had already grabbed headlines, made his move. He could not support the compromise, he said, because of the unfair unincorporated business tax on doctors, lawyers, and other professionals. Marcus not only got the tax removed, but also restored the education cuts, winning friends among the education lobby.

Stalemate and Suicide

Despite the increases in the corporate and cigarette taxes, the restoring of exemptions to the sales tax and the other tax cuts left the revenue intake $300 million short of Dempsey's original plan. The Democrats solved this problem by selling state bonds instead of taking this $300 million out of the General Fund. These tax-free bonds are bought by banks and very rich individuals; the state then pays them back with interest, usually over a 20-year period.

A political stalemate forced this decision to raise the money in the bond market. Of the total of $900 million in new revenue, the other $600 million was raised in the usual manner—for every dollar collected in taxes from business, two dollars were collected in taxes from consumers. Dempsey's original plan would have hurt consumers even more, raising three dollars from them for each dollar collected from business. The final plan just left the tax burden where it was before—resting mainly on the shoulders of the poor and the working class, all those with incomes below $10,000 a year.

Why did the final tax program end up the way it did?

An individual income tax was political suicide. This was the opinion of Dempsey and Bailey, and their position was enough to kill the idea. Most business leaders strongly opposed an income tax. The State Labor Council favored an income tax, but only if it entirely replaced the sales tax. With these positions, any income tax proposal was doomed, as liberal legislators quickly learned. The sales tax could bring in more revenues in two ways—its coverage could be broadened and/or its rates could be raised. To avoid a fight with liberals and labor, Dempsey did not try to include food, drugs, or clothing for children under 10. (He did get the age limit lowered from 16 to 10). But he failed to broaden the coverage of sales tax because of opposition from the two industries which would have been most affected. The insurance industry defeated the sales tax on premiums, and the real estate industry defeated the tax on property transactions.

The alternative was to increase the sales tax rate on articles already covered. This was done, but a 6% rate was too politically dangerous. Marcus and Ratchford knew almost certainly that Dempsey would veto their 6% proposal.

The corporation income tax, the lowest of any New England state, could also be raised. Dempsey proposed to raise $230 million with a 6% tax; the 8% tax will raise $280 million during the two years. But to raise the remaining $300 million from corporations was out of the question. That would have required a 16% tax rate, by far the highest in the nation. Companies would leave the state in droves if such a tax were enacted.

This political stalemate led to the decision to bond. The failure to work out a politically and economically feasible tax made bonding an attractive alternative—not only would the total tax bill look smaller, but the decision about how to raise money to pay for the state's expenditures could be postponed.

Progressive Income Tax Needed

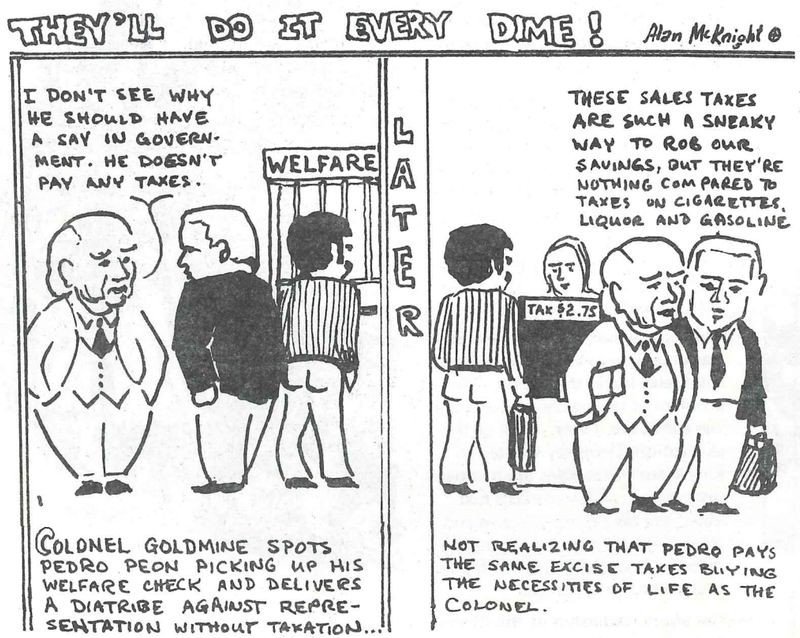
When the time for that decision comes, the best answer is clear. A progressive income tax, including all capital gains, should replace the sales tax. A progressive tax would do two things. First, it would shift the major tax burden to those who can best afford it. Second, it would make more clear which income groups pay most for the services of state government. The issues of state politics would become more easily understandable.

As long as corporations can play off one state against another, raising state corporation taxes will continue to be difficult. And as long as corporations can pass on their taxes to the consumer, the value of such taxes remains limited.

Within the tight limits set for them by powerful business interests and less powerful labor interests, the leading politicians did their best to gain publicity, avoid bad political mistakes, and somehow or another raise enough money to keep the government in operation. The state's financial crisis has been postponed, but if working people are going to get any relief from *their* worsening financial crisis, they had better begin organizing now.

Research by Jerry Yesavage

Next Issue: What about New Haven taxes?


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY DIME!
Alan McKnight ©
I DON'T SEE WHY HE SHOULD HAVE A SAY IN GOVERNMENT. HE DOESN'T PAY ANY TAXES.
WELFARE
COLONEL GOLDMINE SPOTS PEDRO PEON PICKING UP HIS WELFARE CHECK AND DELIVERS A DIATRIBE AGAINST REPRESENTATION WITHOUT TAXATION...
LATER
THESE SALES TAXES ARE SUCH A SNEAKY WAY TO ROB OUR SAVINGS, BUT THEY'RE NOTHING COMPARED TO TAXES ON CIGARETTES, LIQUOR AND GASOLINE
TAX $2.75
NOT REALIZING THAT PEDRO PAYS THE SAME EXCISE TAXES BUYING THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE AS THE COLONEL.

LANDLORD'S FREE BREAKFAST FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

GET THE LEAD OUT!

Workshop Explodes

by Joelle Dominski

The community took the problem of lead poisoning into its own hands Saturday, October 18, at a state-wide workshop. The meeting, which was called by Citizens against Lead, turned out to be a shining example of how slum landlords and public officials are so busy trying to make bucks and pass the buck they can't find time to do anything about emergency problems.

The people at the workshop were angry—angry that one in every four of their children is being poisoned by lead; angry that Mayor Lee and John Atwater, head of the city Health Department, didn't even attend the meeting.

The people united in their anger and made demands of the officials and slumlords at the workshop. They struck out at the university-government complex, which had been attacked in the keynote speech. The opening talk was made by Dr. Max Pepper, former New Haven resident who helped set up the Mental Health Center and the Hill Health Center. He charged, "There has been an unholy alliance of experts—university types and government."

Government officials set the danger level for lead poisoning, explained Pepper. The university helps in setting these standards by regulating who can study public health. Yet, the standards of officials and educators often don't agree with the needs of the people. After all, doctors and scientists live very far from the everyday problems inner-city people face. The standards are usually decided arbitrarily, and many times are irrelevant to the real conditions in the community. Lead poisoning has never been seen as a problem before, because doctors didn't test for lead.

Continued

Facts about Lead

by John Moulder

WHAT CAUSES LEAD POISONING?

Lead paint was used in almost all houses built before 1940, and it is still present on the walls under coats of lead-free paint. The plaster under the paint generally contains lead. When the paint peels or chips, or when there are holes in the walls, the paint and plaster — both containing lead — are exposed.

It is normal for children to put things in their mouths. All children do this, no matter how closely they are supervised. It is impossible for a mother to keep children away from peeling paint which covers all the walls. The problem is made worse because many children in the inner city are hungry, and lead paint chips taste sweet.

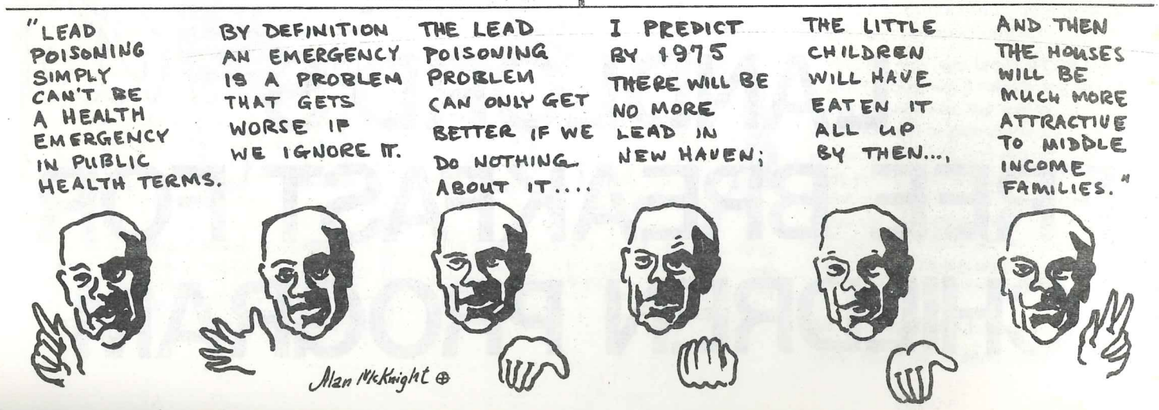
Another frequently overlooked source of lead is automobile exhaust fumes. Oil companies use lead compounds as anti-knocking agents in gasoline. These lead compounds are released into the air and taken into the lungs. Certain industries also release lead compounds into the air.

HOW SERIOUS IS THE PROBLEM?

Between 1964 and 1968, 240 cases of lead poisoning were reported in New Haven. During a two and a half month period this spring, the Hill Health Center examined every child brought into the center. Of the 122 children tested, 30 had high levels of lead in their blood, and 12 of these children had serious lead poisoning. This means that 25% of the children examined have been poisoned.

A bad case of lead poisoning can lead to convulsions, prolonged vomiting, major brain damage and even death. Lead poisoning is the cause of 80% of the total deaths from accidental poisoning in children. Lower levels of exposure to lead can cause mental retardation, personality changes, kidney disease, lessened protection against infection, and possibly other unknown effects.

Continued


"LEAD POISONING SIMPLY CAN'T BE A HEALTH EMERGENCY IN PUBLIC HEALTH TERMS.
BY DEFINITION AN EMERGENCY IS A PROBLEM THAT GETS WORSE IF WE IGNORE IT.
THE LEAD POISONING PROBLEM CAN ONLY GET BETTER IF WE DO NOTHING ABOUT IT....
I PREDICT BY 1975 THERE WILL BE NO MORE LEAD IN NEW HAVEN;
THE LITTLE CHILDREN WILL HAVE EATEN IT ALL UP BY THEN...,
AND THEN THE HOUSES WILL BE MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE TO MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES."
Alan McKnight

WORKSHOP EXPLODES Continued

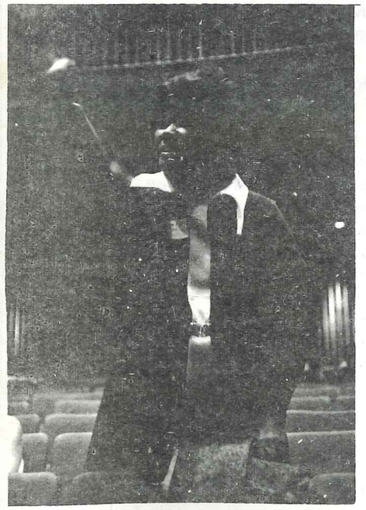
"There is nothing more coercive and violent than a university-government complex that's allowed a totally preventable condition to exist on its very doorstep," said Pepper. "Coercive" and "violent" are charges that have recently been leveled by Yale against Fred Harris and other community people. Pepper stressed that priorities are backwards; the coercion and violence of the university-government complex, not of the community, is what must be stopped.

Absence Speaks Loudest

The high government officials who represent this complex are usually conspicuous by their absence at large community meetings like the one CAL held. Neither Mayor Lee not Dr. Atwater showed up. But Lee wrote to explain how New Haven has been doing a great job all along to combat lead poisoning. The facts are that Atwater, Lee's appointee, has ignored the people's real health problems. He has found it more profitable to protect negligent, but rich, landlords and let the children of the poor die.

"People who are supposed to be public servants don't know what it means to serve the people," said one mother. Rudy Sellers of the Hill Health Center summed up when he said "By not engaging in our program to *get the lead out—keep it out,* they're saying *get more lead in—keep it in.*"

The highest official who showed up, Fredrick Foote, State Commissioner of Health, proved Sellers' point. He came with little information and many contradictory statements. Foote had nothing to say obout why preventive programs have not been started. He just knew "there is no money." He had never found out why there are only two part-time housing inspectors in all of New Haven. He shrugged off the fact that lead poisoning is not considered serious enough by his department to require local health departments to report cases. He didn't even know that one child in every four tested at the Hill Health Center suffers from lead poisoning.



You people have the nerve to talk about law and order when you don't enforce the law.

The people got disgusted with Foote's meaningless talk. "Declare an emergency and get us special funds" was the demand. First, Foote claimed that just one case of lead poisoning would be enough to declare an emergency. Then he tried to get around the issue by claiming that he has issued public statements regularly. Next he decided a state law would be necessary and that he had no authority to act on his own. Later, he explained that lead poisoning is not an emergency, since in public health terms an "emergency" is a problem that gets worse if it isn't stopped immediately. Since lead poisoning won't get *worse* if it is ignored, it isn't an emergency, in his mind.

Finally, smiling, Foote replied, "I'll keep your suggestion in mind." "They're not *suggestions,*" said the people. "I'll keep your demands in mind," said Foote, still smiling. "No," he was told "*this isn't a* demand, *it's just what has to be done.* Children are dying." But Foote was deaf to the loss of human lives of the ppor. A few token press releases were the most he could muster up in the face of the political consequences he would face in a government run of, by and for the rich.

No one was stalled by Foote's evasion of the question. "*We* declare a state of health emergency" someone shouted, and that got a standing ovation.

Foote was told off many times, "You'd better find out about lead poisoning one angry mother demanded. "You people have the nerve to talk about law and order when you don't enforce the law," another parent said.

If the New Haven Housing Code were enforced, there would be no lead poisoning crisis. But the code is not enforced. After tenants complain to the Division of Neighborhood Improvement (DNI), it is a long time before a housing inspector investigates the apartment in question. Community residents said that violations are often overlooked *and* that orders to repair buildings result in token improvements or else no improvements at all.

One mother had her landlord arrested,

WE declare a state of emergency!

but the city refused to prosecute. Slum landlords have a lot of influence in the city and the agencies and courts have shown little interest in forcing them to keep their apartments in decent condition. Another mother told how a friend of slumlord Sachse had painted the inside of an apartment with outdoor pain containing lead. Another mother had to move to a hotel because two of her children had bad cases of lead poisoning. The only lead-free apartment she could find was in a strange neighborhood, and now she doesn't live near her friends, and her child has to take a bus trip to get to school each day.

Excuses, Excuses....

The two slum landlords at Saturday's meeting, Sachse and Peter Young, both informed the community people present that "lead poisoning is from bad housekeeping" and that "some people have to learn how to live." They tried to hide behind the alibis of Foote and avoid spending the money to make the apartments they own safe to live in. But they can't get away with it—people are taking the situation into their own hands. One community resident said, "Foote and Sachse won't attack the system, but they put the blame on the people. We can blame Sachse for the housing he owns."

Two community groups have been taking some action already. The Hill Health Center has been doing health checks for lead poisoning. Freedom Now in Fair Haven has trained some volunteers to inspect neighborhood houses for lead paint. The inspectors have found "large pieces of peeling paint" in some of Sachse's apartments. His houses are "the leftovers of the rich," said Mrs. Pura Velez who lives in Fair

Slumlords Young (left) and Sachse put their heads together.

Haven. She told how Sachse charges $135 a month for small four-room apartments. "I know he'll work with Freedom Now, after this meeting," she added looking at Sachse.

The fight against lead will be tied into a fight against bad housing and public health conditions throughout the inner-city. CAL will deal with one problem—lead. Other problems mentioned at the workshop that have to be dealt with are:

Air Pollution: "If the government doesn't control the environment, the government is meaningless. The government must control the environment, and people must control the government."

Urban Development: "Industry and cars pollute the environment...Urban development means more roads and cars...."

Day Care Centers: "Day care centers or nurseries would help with direct supervision of young children."

Threats Necessary

When a resident files a complaint about a housing code violation, he or she is at the mercy of the agency whose negligence is implicated. Arnette Whitmire, a social worker at the Hill Health Center, explained that, "Complaints are seen as threats that the health professionals aren't doing their jobs." She told how one family who entered a complaint was harrassed and threatened by several different agencies that were implicated in the complaint. She said the only group willing to protect the family was the Black Panther Party.

Many people got excited about the idea of a rent strike as a tactic to get the lead out. "We can't wait, though. We can use the rent money to start fixing the apartments up," said one woman. And another added, "None of us will pay rent until all the apartments are fixed up."

But before the strike begins, some problems will have to be cleared up. Many of the families in danger of lead poisoning are on welfare. The Welfare Department passed a ruling on October 1, saying that if a welfare family does withhold rent, the department will send rent money directly to the landlord involved, and bypass the family. But research has begun, and plans are underway.

The workshop ended with a commitment of unity and support for those families who will be protesting the presence of lead paint in their apartments. During the fight to get rid of lead, all will support those who will be putting themselves on the line. We will not allow the murderers to continue.

FACTS ABOUT LEAD POISONING

Continued

Whose Children Get Poisoned And Why?

Lead poisoning is largely confined to the inner city. It effects poor whites, blacks and Spanish-speaking children between the ages of one and six. Lead poisoning is not contagious but brothers and sisters in the same family or neighbors who play together are likely to be poisoned from the same source.

It is a disease of the poor. It is directly caused by the failure of this society to provide decent housing for all its people. The presence of peeling paint and falling plaster is a clear violation of the New Haven Housing Code, but we all know that the Housing Code is enforced poorly, if at all.

What are the Symptoms of Lead Poisoning? How is it Cured?

The usual signs and symptoms of lead poisoning are: eating things other than food, irratabliity and fussiness, unsteady walk, convulsions, vomiting. There may, however, be no obvious symptoms at all. Any child, age one through six, who lives in a dwelling with peeling paint or chipping plaster is a likely victim of lead poisoning.

Doctors detect lead poisoning by tests of boood and urine. It is treated by removing the child to a lead-free place and giving him or her drugs which help the body trap and get rid of the lead.

How Can We Stop Lead Poisoning?

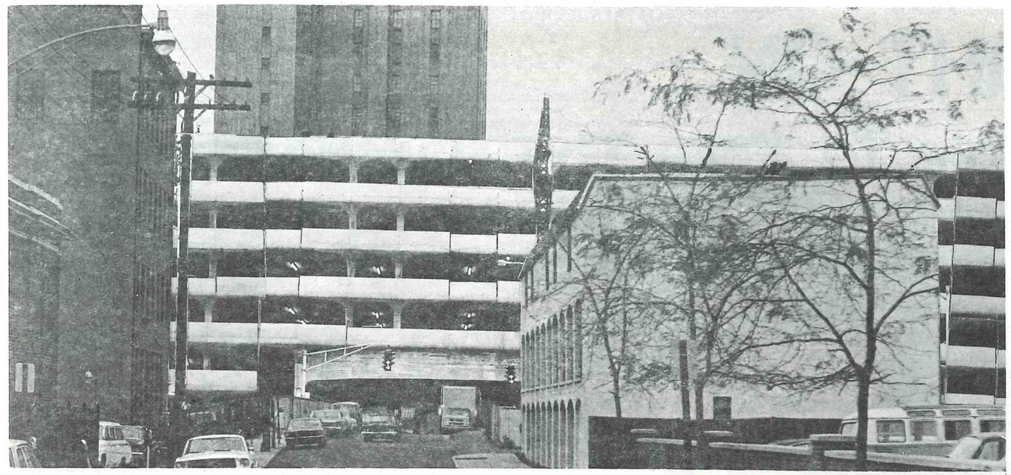
Lead poisoning can be cured if and when it is detected. But a "cure" is meaningless. if the child is sent back into a lead-poisoned apartment. Lead poisoning can be prevented, and it must be prevented. It is strictly a man-made disease. To prevent lead poisoning we must demand complete and immediate enforcement of the housing code.

If you want to help fight lead poisoning, or if you think that your child might have lead poisoning contact:

Citizens Against Lead
Hill Health Center
428 Columbus Avenue
New Haven 772-1060

or

American Independent Movement
148 Orange Street
New Haven 787-0123



Artist's conception of how the State Street garage will look. It must be approved by the Board of Aldermen, so we will have another crack at blocking this disaster. Anyone interested in organizing, leafleting or researching on this issue, call AIM Urban Renewal Committee, 787-0123.

State St. Renewal: Round 2

by David Dickson
AIM Urban Renewal Committee

On April 11, 1968, the State Street Redevelopment Plan, which included a government center, an arts center, new office and retail construction, and a divided highway and parking garage on State Street was approved by the Board of Aldermen after many weeks of controversy. *(See AIM Newsletter, Vol. 2, Nos. 8, 9, 11)*

The Aldermen were spurred to amend the plan by a petition from the Wooster Square neighborhood which included over 1000 signatures and a stormy public hearing attended by over 400 people, the vast majority opposed to the plan. One amendment deleting the two three-lane highways planned to replace State Street lost 13 to 14. But the Aldermen did vote 18 to 9 to restrict the parking garage to the area between Chapel and Fair Streets.

The experts of the Redevelopment Agency, however, did not take the people's mandate seriously, and held a hearing last Thursday, October 23, to try and amend the State Street plan again, and get their way. Two of the proposed amendments are minor, but the third would resurrect the half-mile long, six-story, 5000 car garage which the Aldermen had buried 18 months ago.

The city went all out to present their amendments in a slick brochure and a zappy slide show by Chuck Shannon, John Cavallero and John McGuerty, directors of the Redevelopment Agency, the Department of Traffic and Parking, and the City Plan Department, respectively. The brass and their five supporters, mostly bought-off businessmen who live in the suburbs, claimed that the garage is necessary to generate business, jobs and tax revenue.

An overwhelming majority of the people at the hearing opposed the garage. Twenty dissenting speakers blasted the garage, air pollution, the arrogance of the Redevelopment Agency, and the public hearing itself.

Henry Parker, black former mayoral candidate, suggested the garage was part of a "secret master plan" and assailed the Redevelopment Agency for "circumventing the will of the people in the most callous manner."

Don Steed, of the "View from the Bottom" newspaper which has its offices on State Street, dubbed city officials the "New Haven 8" and accused them of "conspiracy and the use of intertown facilities to deny civil rights."

Dr. Richard Weinerman, of Yale's Epidemeology and Public Health Department, one of many speakers who hit hard at air pollution, claimed that New Haven's "concentration of massive road-building and garages in a natural pocket" had already "reached a danger point" of air pollution.

The New Haven Savings Bank is planning to build a new bank and office building on the corner of Church and Elm Streets, and the Redevelopment Agency claimed that the bank's plans were contingent upon the completion of the massive parking garage. This secret deal is reminiscent of the deal the city made with Macy's, guaranteeing the construction of the Crown Street Garage.

James Vastula, of Williams Street, said, "let the New Haven Savings Bank pay for their own garage and lower the burden on the poor sucker who owns property."

Harris Stone of AIM, made the whole sordid deal even more incredible by revealing that "land now owned by the Bank on the corner of Church and Elm is going to be bought by the Redevelopment Agency with the taxpayers' money, cleared and then sold back to the bank at a lower price."

When such conspiracies are made public, it is clear that public hearings are a farce. The city does its planning in secret with the corporations, not in public with the people.

Henry Tamarin, whose last known address was demolished by the Redevelopment Agency last week, spoke for the Bread and Roses coffeehouse, the only new business on State Street. He called the officials "Jack-rip-it-off" and asked if anyone in the audience owned Macy's or Malley's. When no one responded, he declared the hearing a farce because Macy's, Malley's, etc. obviously call the shots.

Rika Alper, a State Street small businesswoman, also from the Bread and Roses coffeehouse, stated that there are many people who live and work in downtown New Haven who want a place to go. She cited the coffeehouse and the newspaper "View from the Bottom" and draft counselling next door as the kind of "renewal" which will better serve the needs of the people than a half-mile long, six-story, 5000 car parking garage.

To be continued soon, concentrating on alternative possibilities of developing downtown and the whole city.

RIGHT ON

People To Free The Panthers

It's time the real story about the Black Panther Party got told in New Haven. If you only know what you read in big business newspapers like the **Register**, you get a crazy picture of the Panthers. So to get the word around, AIM and other people who agree with what the Panthers are doing have started a new group: People to Free the Panthers. Their job is to get the truth about the Panthers out to white working people and to students. (Don't confuse this new group with the Coalition to Defend the Panthers—that's a group of organizations who are working on the job of getting justice and legal money for the Panthers in jail.)

The newspapers spread many lies about the Panthers to make people think that the Panthers are just whitey-haters who go around fighting cops. Why do the newspapers lie? Why are the Panthers persecuted for their political beliefs? Why are the Panthers who are in jail on the Rackley murder case being treated like convicts? Such things happen because the Panthers are a real threat to the bigshots who own the newspapers and the corporations and the city-halls too—they run the country for their benefit, not ours.

The Panthers help the people in a lot of good ways. They're running breakfast programs for hungry New Haven children—black and white—because they know kids can't learn in school or grow up right if they're hungry. This program shows how rotten those bigshots who run this country are when they let kids go hungry. The Panthers work every day to get the word out: the rich run this country to fill their own pockets, and it's time for the working man to get the power to run it his way for once. That's all the Panther slogan means—All power to the people.

One of the things the People to Free the Panthers will do is distribute **Right On.** This newspaper will have 20,000 copies each issue and will give facts about the Panther Party. The People to Free the Panthers can talk for themselves: here are the statements of Doug Miranda of the Panther Party and Casi Eisenman and Chris Wilson of the People to Free the Panthers.

PANTHER PARTY SERVES PEOPLE

STATEMENT BY DOUG MIRANDA

The arrest and frameup of eight New Haven Black Panthers on trumped-up charges of murder is another incident in a nationwide campaign by state, local and Federal police to destroy the Black Panther Party. Hours after the eight members of the Black Panther Party were charged with murder, local newspapers had tried and literally convicted them without even the pretense of a trial. The New Haven **Register** had spread sensational headlines based totally on one-sided information which was leaked from some mysterious chamber down in city hall.

The completely unproven rumor of tapes of "the murder" is only a small part of the slanderous attack on the Black Panther Party in New Haven. By using such tactics, government officials have only displayed their corruption. Their unrestrained attempts to crush the Panther Party will educate people to understand that these politicians constantly trick the people while serving their own selfish interests.

The Black Panther Party is a political party which serves the basic needs and wants of the people. Alex Rackley was a member of the Black Panther Party in good standing. He was a member of the Party which serves the people; therefore, he was a servant of the people. If any member of the Panther Party acts in a manner against the people, such as a police informer, he is not killed or tortured, he is thrown out of the Party, and his name, picture, and reason for expulsion appear in our national paper. If any member wishes to leave the Party, he is shown to the door. The Black Panther Party does not force anyone to stay against their wishes because all true members of our party are unified behind educating and serving the people in a manner which will best bring about freedom from social injustice.

The Free Breakfast Program is one of the many programs started by the Party and given to the people as a service (and education) to the community. At present across the country, we feed over 40,000 children of all colors. Hunger knows no color. Last week on Thursday, October 9, 1969, the Black Panther Party, along with the community, started the first free breakfast in New Haven, Conn. The first free breakfast, which started on a rainy day, had an attendance of 15 children. The second day of the breakfast was attended by 35 children. The number will grow everyday as the people begin to truly see the Black Panther Party as a People's Party, and the only way the people are going to begin to understand where the party is coming from is through our social practice. The Free Breakfast program is presently being held at the Newhallville Teen Lounge, located at 179 Shelton Ave. New Locations are needed throughout the city.

The Party work here in New Haven has been set back by the lies and terror tactics used by the government to destroy us. So the Party, along with other progressive individuals and organizations, must move to educate the people to our program and the repressive measures the government has taken against us. Our coalitions with these individuals and organizations have two major goals:

1. To counteract the prejudicial publicity against the Panthers by educating New Haven citizens about the Panthers' positive community programs and about the legal rights which they must receive to have a fair trial, and
2. To raise money for the legal defense of the Panthers and to carry on the work of the Coalition in the Panthers' behalf.

Join Us !

STATEMENT BY CASI EISENMAN

During the past few months, more than 300 members of the Black Panther Party have been arrested. One by one the leaders of the Party have faced outrageous charges, threats, jail sentences, or exile. This persecution is because of the Panthers' radical politics.

In order to combat political persecution of the Panthers, and to get the message of the Black Panther Party to the people, we announce this morning the formation of a group called the People to Free the Panthers.

Our focus is the 15 Black Panthers now in jail in Connecticut and elsewhere in connection with this case. These people *innocent* until proven guilty, have already spent nearly six months each in jail. They are political prisoners. Our goal is to see them freed!

We plan to bring the true facts of the Panther case to the people. Every two weeks we will publish a newsletter to tell people what they can't find out from the other newspapers. Our first paper will be distributed tomorrow, October 15. We will start with 20,000 copies, and increase the number as time goes on.

We know the injustice of the Panther case affects more than just the members of the Black Panther Party. It affects every man, woman and child: black, brown or white who believes this country should be run by the people who work in our factories, build our houses, learn in our schools, or grow our food. People like us who know the Panthers are telling the truth when they say this country is being run by and for a small group of rich and powerful men.

We believe in the Panther slogan: All Power to the People! We think it's up to us to free the Panthers. We recognize that America has oppressed her black people shamefully. A system which oppresses people cannot pass judgment on the people it oppresses. Instead, we the people, must judge the system.

People to Free the Panthers welcomes all people to join us: working people, students, GI's, black, brown and white, young and old, men and women. Help us leaflet, come to the Free the Panthers Rallies, talk to your friends and neighbors. You can call Cappy Pinderhughes, at 562-7463, for more information.

All Power to the People!

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Panther Party has named the Breakfast Program after John Huggins, a New Haven-born member of the Party who was killed in California. It is held at the Newhallville Teen Lounge, 179 Shelton Ave. from 7 - 8:30 a.m. every Monday through Friday. For transportation contact the Lounge, 777-5341, between 6:30 and 8 p.m. during the week.

Donations of food, utensils, time and finances are needed.

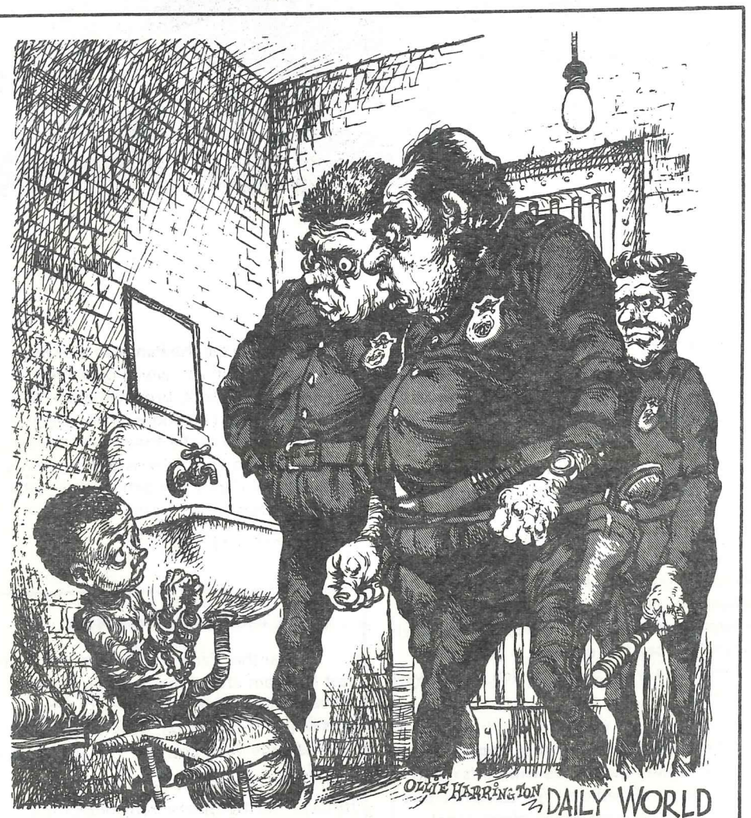
PANTHER WOMEN: PUNISHMENT WITHOUT TRIAL

Statement by Chris Wilson

It has become increasingly apparent in the past few months that a fair trial for the Panthers will be difficult if not impossible due to prejudicial pre-trial publicity and general public ignorance about the Panthers and their program. It has also become clear that the Panthers presently in jail are not being treated fairly, even though they have not been tried and thus are presumed innocent. The latter treatment is something directly under the control of Commissioner of Corrections MacDougall.

The five Panther women held at Niantic State Farm are isolated from all other inmates, with whom they are forbidden to eat, speak, or exercise. Their mail is censored coming and going. Books they have requested have been denied, while others brought to them by visitors have been turned away by prison personnel. They may not read their party's newspaper--the only paper which carries continuing coverage of their case. They may be visited only by family, clergy and lawyers who were with them at the first appearance, many of whom took the job on an emergency, temporary basis.

Nevertheless, the women may not interview other lawyers in order to have a choice of counsel. Nor can they have visits from friends of their own age for morale purposes. Shortly after their arrival, searchlights were installed which keep their cells lit all night. Patrols outside shine spotlights through their windows and, at one point, used walkie-talkies whose volume and feedback squeal combined with the lights to make sleep extremely difficult. Three of the women are in their last months of pregnancy and obviously should not be held under these conditions.



"... And did you voluntarily accept a free, hot meal from known Black Panthers at nine a.m., September nine, nineteen hun'ert an' sixty-nine?"

In addition, one of the women is without a local family, and being in jail, cannot find a temporary home for her child. It is likely that the State will place it in a home. If released, she will have to go through a lengthy administrative process in order to have her baby returned, none of which would have happened if she had not been kept in jail before the trial.

The only real answer is, of course, that the women and their codefendents should be set free before trial on a bail they can raise. But short of that, the conditions described above must be eliminated by Commissioner MacDougall immediately. When asked about the noise from the walkie-talkies, he did not say that this was regrettable, but merely that we need not worry anymore because they were all broken. When asked why the women could not read what they liked, he explained that he had to prevent what he called inflammatory materials from getting into the prison population. It was pointed out to him that the women themselves were already isolated, and that being isolated, there was no reason to censor their reading material since it could not get to any other inmates. For this he had no answer, or at least declined to give one. Perhaps most disturbing was his admission that no distinction in treatment is made between prisoners who have been convicted of a crime and those still awaiting trial and, therefore, presumed innocent.

Commissioner MacDougall is charged under the laws of Connecticut with the power to make these policies. He is, therefore, under an obligation to the community to defend or at least explain them. We hereby respectfully ask Commissioner MacDougall for a withdrawal or reasonable explanation for each of the above listed policies. We ask in particular for an explanation of the 'freedom to read' issue because it seems so clear to us that there can be no explanation for this. Either let the women out of isolation or allow them to read what they like. To do otherwise is to punish them before trial. It strikes us that the only explanation for the harsh treatment that these prisoners have received is that Commissioner MacDougall is politically motivated to avoid appearing "soft" on Panthers.

There is an increasing recognition among citizens that certain issues are being dodged. People watching this affair have become impatient with evasion and feel that the time has come to either put up or shut up: we must either live up fully to our constitutional guarantees or admit that we are really not willing to do so.

This article is the second in a series telling the history of women in the United States, a history which is left out of our textbooks.

LOST HERITAGE: Women in the Revolution

by Casi

It was a woman who first recognized that the basic issue in the American colonies' struggle for independence was not simply "taxation without representation," but rather the issue of "inherent rights"—the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Her name was Mercy Otis Warren. She was a friend and correspondent of Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, John Adams, and a host of others whose names decorate the Declaration of Independence. Mercy was also the first person to counsel complete independence from England. In a letter to John Adams written several months before the Second Continental Congress in May of 1775, Mercy urged John to radicalize the Congress. King George III had not only refused to remove his troops from the colonies, he had sent more. The anger of the American people was running high. Mercy urged that the Congress move with the people and insist on the right of the colonies to self-government and independence.

Mercy was only one of the many women who played important roles in the conception and carrying out of the American revolution. History has barely whispered the names of these women. Few actually shed or lost blood, but their intelligence, courage and sacrifice should not be thought less important or less glamorous than the deeds of fighting men.

Abigail Adams

One woman who did manage to gain some credit for her ideas was Abigail Adams. Of course, her main fame lay in choosing President John Adams for a husband and bearing President John Quincy Adams as a son. Aside from these accomplishments, she kept one of the finest chronicles of the political climate before and during the revolution.

At one point in the revolution, she wrote the following perceptive letter to her husband.

"I have nothing new to entertain you with, unless it be an account of a new set of nobility, which has lately taken the lead in Boston. You must know there is a great scarcity of sugar and coffee, articles which the female part of the State is very loathe to give up, especially while they consider the scarcity occassioned by the merchants having secreted a large quantity. There has been much rout and noise in the town for several weeks. Some stores have been opened by a number of people, and the coffee and sugar carried into the market and dealt out by the pounds. It was rumored that an eminent, wealthy, stingy merchant (who was a bachelor) had a hogshead of coffee in his store which he refused to sell to the committee under six shillings a pound. A number of females, some say a hundred, some say more, assembled with a cart and trucks, marched down to the warehouse and demanded the keys, which he refused to deliver. Upon which one of them seized him by his neck and tossed him into the cart. Upon his finding no quarter, he delivered the keys, when they tipped the cart and discharged him; then opened the warehouse, hoisted out the coffee themselves, put it into the trucks and drove off.

Mercy Otis Warren

"It was reported that he had personal chastisement among them; but this, I believe was not true. A large concourse of men stood amazed, silent spectators of the whole transaction...."

As the men met and planned the home defenses and set out for Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress, the women stepped quietly into the jobs they left behind. And when that first Congress called for a strengthening of the boycott against trade with England, knowing it would lead to reprisals from George III, they also knew their women were in agreement and ready to fight.

As the likelihood of war became clear to the colonists, and men mobilized to fight under the name of Sons of Liberty, women also organized. These Daughters of Liberty boycotted all English goods, learned which homegrown roots would brew tea, wove cloth, and stitched clothes for the army they knew would be formed. They even began storing their pewter to mold into bullets.

November 1, 1969

In a letter to her husband Abigail wrote, *"Did ever any kingdom or state regain its liberty, when once it was invaded, without bloodshed? I cannot think of it without horror. Yet we are told that the misfortunes of Sparta were occasioned by their too great solicitude for pleasant tranquility and, from an excessive love of peace, they neglected the means of making it sure and lasting."*

Abigail went on to warn John against sacrificing freedom and honor for peace. She not only urged his revolutionary activities onward, she also developed many of the ideas the Constitution was to express later.

Women in Battle

At least two women are known to have actually fought on the field of battle. One was the colorful Molly Pitcher, who loaded her husband's cannon when he fell wounded. Another, young Deborah Gannet, served as an enlisted soldier for most of the revolution, until her sex was discovered. History does not tell us how she was found out.

Another Deborah, Deborah Champion, accomplished a daring mission as courier to General Washington. Although quite a young girl, she rode from New London, Connecticut, through the English lines on horseback to Washington's camp in Boston. When a Redcoat stopped her, she pretended to be an old woman and convinced him it was too early in the morning to wake his captain to question her. Her fast thinking and courage saved her, and the dispatch she carried probably saved Washington's troops.

Abigail Adams

It is commonly known that Abigail Adams, in another letter to her husband, warned that women would not obey any of the new laws of the United States in which they had no voice or representation. But not so well known is Hannah Lee Corbin's letter to her brother, General Richard Henry Lee, written in 1778, protesting against the taxation of women unless they were allowed to vote. His reply was that "women were already possessed of that right", meaning that he thought the Declaration of Independence included women.

However, it is obvious today that the Revolution did not guarantee women's rights. In fact, even though a woman, Bridget Graffort, donated the land for the first public school, females were not allowed to attend! And, in most of the states after the revolution, women were not allowed to vote.

Ironically enough, the first strong blows for the emancipation of women came from the newly cast-off motherland.

December 1 issue: starting with essayist Mary Wollstonecraft and leading to the women's suffrage movement in this country.

people's almanac

—Liberation News Service

Nov. 1—1886—Strike of slaughterhouse workers begins in Chicago.

Nov. 2—1909—International Workers of the World (IWW) free speech fight in Spokane, Washington.

Nov. 3—1968—National Liberation Front of South Vietnam agrees to participate in expanded peace talks in Paris. After four years of punishment from full-scale guerrilla warfare, the U.S. must decide whether or not to formally recognize the existence of the NLF.

Nov. 5—1855—Eugene V. Debs is born. Militant socialist, union leader and presidential candidate while serving a prison term for opposing World War I as a conflict between competing imperialist powers.

Nov. 6—1968—Richard M. Nixon is elected president of the United States of America. He promises to restore social harmony to the nation and to end the war in Vietnam. As usual, nobody believes him.

Nov. 7—1837—Elijah Lovejoy, abolitionist leader and newspaper editor, is murdered by pro-slavery mob at Alton, Illinois, while defending his press.

Nov. 7—1917—Russian workers seize control of the state. Soldiers storm the winter palace, kick out the liberal politicians. Armed workers roam the streets.

Nov. 11—1887—Murder of Haymarket anarchists in Chicago.

Nov. 11—1919—Wesley Everst, IWW leader, leader, is lynched by a mob after an American Legion parade attacks IWW headquarters in Centralia, Washington.

Nov. 12—1815—Elizabeth Cady Stanton is born. Leader of women's rights struggles.

Nov. 14—1938—CIO is founded in Pittsburgh. Militant labor union is left response to AFL. Members of Communist Party, U.S.A., paly major role in leading CIO, but concentrate on trade unionism. Communists are ousted in late 1940's as Cold War and McCarthyism emerge.

The People's News

THAT THE REGISTER WILL NEVER PRINT

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LETTERS

To the Editor:

A few quick comments on the unsuitability of the proposals of the International Rowing Course Foundation for radical changes in the present lovely environment of Edgewood Park and the West River Park:

The removal of the Chapel Street bridge over the West River is something that only rich businessmen like those presently living in New York could possibly think of. The importance of this Chapel Street bridge for ambulance, police and fire apparatus is, for Westville and Yale Bowl area residents, undeniable. The permanent removal of this bridge will make egress of crowds from the Yale Bowl gatherings even more difficult than it already is.

The construction of viewing stands on for rowing and sculling enthusiasts on the east and west side entrance road to the Chapel Street bridge will destroy the duck pond which has given so much pleasure to young and old alike, and will result in the removal for the second time of the memorial to Corporal Timothy Ahern who, unlike most politicians, gave more for his country than he took from it.

The construction of more concrete bastions in this area may be profitable for contractors, but it will permanently destroy a vista on both north and south sides of the area that, at all seasons, but especially in this autumn season is breathtaking in its beauty.

The parks, Edgewood and West River, already provide natural landscaping, a wild bird sancturary, playground areas, athletic facilities, tennis courts and a little league field. Take a walk out along the area now and look at it.

Public boating facilities and a municipal swimming pool can be provided in other watering areas than the little and beautiful—if the bourgeois interests will leave it alone—West River.

The excitements of international rowing contests take place over a comparatively limited part of the calendar year. Is New Haven to lose its two lovely parks for this somewhat esoteric enthusiasm? Furthermore, this kind of excitement is for the well-fixed few. Our New Haven citizenry who own the park don't go in for much shell racing and sculling, and, if none can be procured at all, then it should be used for more basic interests than the aristocratic ones of rowing enthusiasts.

The New Haven convalescent home near the Boulevard has patients who will hardly enjoy the crowds, the noises and the excitement.

The automobile parking problems may well remove much of the greenery that has already been taken away from the New Haven park system and result in paving, so profitable to purveyors of concrete, tar and cement.

If the International Rowing Course Foundation and Yale should get its rowing course out of these parks which the people of New Haven presently own, who will pay for the upkeep of these establishments in the years to come? The taxpayers? They own the place already. Yale and the political establishment cannot give to New Haveners what they already own. They can, however, make the taxpayers provide them with facilities for their amusements.

The "hurry-up" nature of this entire public park-exploiting scheme leaves an already suspicious citizenry even more suspicious. If more "lightening trips" to Washington had been made by our elected representatives over the issues that really bedevil our citizenry, like poverty, unemployment, serious educational deficiencies, Vietnam and the drafting of young men, plus getting the vote for 18 year oldsters —young enough to die in war, but not deemed old enough to vote — then this community might not be confronted with the deep-seated political unrest that has it so divided today.

Thomas R. Creighton
Stanley Street, New Haven

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page 17.....*Adams Family Correspondence*, p. 241, John Singleton Copley, artist
page 18.....*Portraits of John and Abigail Adams*, p. 139, Gilbert Stuart, artist

RESERVATIONS **NOV. 15 MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO END THE WAR**

I want to buy reservations for Washington. Chartered buses (leaving New Haven Green about 2 a.m. Saturday morning):

Adults	$15	I would like _____ adult
Children (under 12)	$12.50	_____ childrer
Teens (13-19)	$13.50	_____ teen

Enclosed find $ _____

Tickets will be sent upon receipt of money. No reservations can be made without payment. All seats on buses must be reserved in advance.

checks made payable to Committee for the Fall Offensive
148 Orange Street

Train/Plane information: call 787-0123.

Bring food and drink—it will be impossible to get in Washington.

BABYSITTING For babysitting arrangements for November 15 — either to help babysit for others or who need babysitters: Call ANNE SCHWARTZ 776-4980 between Nov. 10-13.

POLLUTION PERISCOPE

ANNOUNCES

POLLUTION PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

THE WORST PICTURE WINS

AIR POLLUTION, WATER POLLUTION, LEAD POISONING, MIND POLLUTION

RULES

1. Entries must be in by January 1, 1970
2. Any number of photographs may be submitted, but each should be titled.
3. The winning photograph or photographs will be used by the periscope to fight pollution. (One idea we have is to get together a traveling pollution exhibit.)
4. The prize will be announced as soon as someone comes up with a good idea. The prize may be a gift ceritficate or else a more personalized series of dinners, tours, handicrafts, etc., to be supplied by members of AIM.

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